3/18/88 A3275-2

TRENDS

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

Office of Information
and Public Affairs
50 F Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20001
(202) 639-2555

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, March 17, 1988 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended March 12 totaled 18.8 billion ton-miles, up 5.9 percent from the 17.7 billion carried in the comparable week of 1987.

Cumulative volume for the first 10 weeks of 1988 was an estimated 185.2 billion ton-miles carried, up 6.6 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings originated in the week ended March 12 totaled 417,147, up 5.0 percent from the corresponding week of last year, but 1.4 percent lower than the preceding week. Compared with last year, carloadings originated were up 3.5 percent in the East and 6.7 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of last year, 11 of the 20 major commodity groups increased. Coal loadings were up by 4,769 cars (4.4 percent), grain showed a gain of 4,462 cars (15.6 percent), and metals and products increased by 2,432 cars (29.2 percent). Thirteen of the 20 commodity groups decreased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

Piggyback traffic for the week ended March 5 totaled 123,168 trailers and/or containers, up 17.6 percent from the comparable week of 1987.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first nine weeks of the year was 1,046,731 trailers and/or containers, up 15.6 percent from 1987.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 3/12/88:

	Loadings in Week ended March 12, 1988		Change from Corresponding Week 1987			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	33,003	I	4,462	15.6	D	1,178	3.4
Other farm products	3,430	D	779	18.5	I	72	2.1
Metallic ores	14,833	D	523	3.4	I	1,942	15.1
Coal	113,068	I	4,769	4.4	D	4,663	4.0
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	14,493	I	2,059	16.6	I	790	5.8
Nonmetallic minerals	9,655	I	1,283	15.3	D	299	3.0
Grain mill products	10,262	D	1,053	9.3	D	277	2.6
Food and kindred products	10,922	D	170	1.5	D	568	4.9
Primary forest products	10,157	D	691	6.4	D	771	7.1
Lumber and wood products except furniture	8,198	D	275	3.2	I	106	1.3
Pulp, paper and allied products	12,416	D	421	3.3	D	257	2.0
Chemicals and allied products	28,625	I	1,088	4.0	D	291	1.0
Petroleum products	5,008	I	435	9.5	I	204	4.2
Stone, clay and glass products	10,652	I	800	8.1	D	80	0.7
Coke	5,149	I	696	15.6	D	551	9.7
Metals and products	10,749	I	2,432	29.2	D	708	6.2
Motor vehicles and equipment	21,604	D	177	0.8	I	1,755	8.8
Waste and scrap materials	10,332	I	1,468	16.6	I	41	0.4
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	2,578	D	169	6.2	D	134	4.9
All other carloads	82,013	I	4,599	5.9	D	1,138	1.4
Total Cars Loaded	417,147	I	19,833	5.0	D	6,005	1.4
Corresponding week of 1987	397,314						

	1988	1987	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (10 weeks)	4,105,222	3,873,405	I 6.0
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
9 weeks ended March 5	166.4	156.0	I 6.7
Week ended March 12	18.8	17.7	I 5.9
10 Weeks cumulative	185.2	173.7	I 6.6

#

AARt - 031788